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### (54) Fermented coffee beverage

(57) The invention relates to a coffee beverage base being substantially non-alcoholic and comprising a fermented coffee component comprising coffee aroma, which fermented coffee component, has a modulated coffee aroma with fruity and/or floral notes due to the fermentation of the coffee aroma. Further the invention relates to a ready-to-drink coffee beverage which when prepared for consumption form a beer like beverage

with a foam. The invention also relates to a process for making such products.

The example discloses fermentation of roasted coffee extract. In one embodiment specific ratios of methylbutanol to methylbutanal and thioacetates to thiols are required.

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**Description**Field of the Invention

5 [0001] This invention relates to a soft drink or beverage, a beverage base and a process for making such a beverage or beverage base. In particular the invention relates to a beverage with a fermented coffee component.

Background to the Invention

10 [0002] Ready-to-serve coffee-based beverages are becoming increasingly popular. Very often, these beverages contain milk solids or a whitener. Apart from providing a beverage having an appearance and taste similar to that of whitened coffee, the milk solids or whitener performs the function of masking some of the harsher flavors, which may arise in ready-to-drink coffee beverages. However, coffee beverages, which contain milk solids or a whitener, are perceived to be less refreshing than black coffee beverages. In addition coffee aroma rapidly deteriorates. This is due to 15 reactions of aroma compounds with each other but also with the coffee solids in the extract, a phenomenon described in the scientific literature.

[0003] It is well known to use micro-organism such as yeast, lactic acid bacteria or acetic acid bacteria in the fermentation of food products to generate aroma in foods. Fermentation is generally used in the beverage industry in the production of alcoholic beverages and in order to develop the flavours of the beverage. Although fermentation has also 20 been used for the generation of flavours primarily, some alcohol generation usually takes place.

[0004] A fermented coffee beverage is described in European Patent Application EP 0791296. It relates to a beverage based on fermented sugar-containing aqueous extracts of tea or coffee. Disclosed is a process for preparation of a fermented drink under simple conditions and in a relatively short preparation time allowing the production of a fermented drink in large quantities. The fermentation process makes use of a combination of yeast and bacteria. The beverage 25 process has been found to develop small amount of alcohol. Although small, this is for certain application e.g. the in the production of soft drinks undesirable.

[0005] US 4,867,992 discloses a process for producing natural buttery flavour and winery flavour by fermenting a coffee substrate with yeast or bacterial strain. The objective of US 4,867,992 is to develop buttery aroma by fermentation to enhance the dairy notes of beverages, e.g. coffee. This type of aroma is not desirable for the present invention, as 30 it does not provide a refreshing note to the beverage.

[0006] JP 04278072 relates to a yeast-fermented liquid coffee extract containing sugar. The final product contains about 0.2% alcohol. Non-alcoholic fermented coffee beverages could be obtained if the process employs aeration during the fermentation with the yeast. However this would result in stripping the aroma off, and a final product, which is low in coffee aroma.

[0007] There is a need for new product concepts in the category of soft drink and ready-to-serve coffee based beverages. In particular there is a need for new refreshing and stimulating drinks. There is also a need for a refreshing and stimulating beverage in which harsher flavours and aromas are reduced. The invention aims at providing such a product. The invention also aims at providing a beverage, which is stimulating and has a fresh aroma with reduced aroma change during storage. Further the invention aims at providing a fermented coffee beverage, which has a high 40 level of coffee aroma.

[0008] The traditional fermented products in the beverage industry are alcoholic drinks. The present invention aims at providing an alternative beverage to alcoholic drinks.

[0009] The invention also aims at presenting beverage in a new format.

45 Summary of the Invention

[0010] Accordingly, in one aspect, the invention provides a coffee beverage base being substantially non-alcoholic and comprising a fermented coffee component comprising coffee aroma, which fermented coffee component, has a modulated coffee aroma with fruity and/or floral notes due to the fermentation of the coffee aroma. This beverage base 50 can be used for preparing a carbonated beverage having appearance of certain types of beers.

[0011] The invention provides a new stimulating and refreshing beverage, which may be based on natural coffee only. The product of the invention is an attractive non-alcoholic beverage.

[0012] It is surprisingly found that the fruity and/or floral notes can be generated, thus providing a beverage with a unique aroma signature wherein harsh coffee aroma is balanced with the fruity and/or floral aroma notes. Further, it 55 has surprisingly been found that it is possible to provide a beverage base comprising a fermented coffee component which has a modulated coffee aroma and which is a non-alcoholic drink while at the same time retaining the coffee character of the coffee component. The beverage is refreshing due to its unique aroma profile and stimulating due to the caffeine content in the beverage.

**[0013]** An additional advantage is that a beverage may be provided which although fermented does not comprise acetic acid in amounts higher than what was already in the coffee base. Thus, such beverage has not the some times unpleasant acidic taste found in some fermented beverages.

**[0014]** In the present context substantially non-alcoholic coffee base means a coffee base that comprises less than 5 0.05 %, preferably less than 0.01% alcohol or no alcohol at all. Alcohol here refers to ethanol or ethyl alcohol.

**[0015]** Further, in the present context a coffee beverage "base" is a component, which can be used for making a beverage. For example, the coffee beverage base can typically be reconstituted e.g. by the addition of a cold or hot liquid in order to form the final beverage.

**[0016]** The fermentation according to the invention provides fruity and/or floral notes to the coffee aroma. The fruity 10 and/or floral notes can be perceived in the headspace above a prepared beverage. The fruity and/or floral aroma is reflected in a new aroma profile in which several compounds are changed, and which give a shift in the overall perception of that beverage aroma. It has been found that aldehydes like 2 and 3-methylbutanal due to the fermentation are substantially completely converted into their corresponding alcohols, thiol compounds like methanethiol and furfurylthiol are converted into their corresponding thioacetates and diketones are largely reduced to their corresponding 15 acetoin. The occurrence of these new compounds can be easily measured by conventional headspace analysis using Solid Phase Microextraction (SPME) sampling. The level of these compounds is preferable above 50% of the level of the compound that has been transformed, more preferable above 80%.

**[0017]** The coffee component are preferably selected from the group consisting of coffee extract, coffee aroma, coffee extract from which a portion of coffee aroma has been removed. Coffee aroma is the volatile compounds of 20 coffee grounds or coffee extracts. The coffee aroma is preferable an aqueous coffee aroma. The aqueous coffee aroma may be a distillate of coffee aroma compounds from coffee grounds or from coffee extracts or obtained by any other process known to the man skilled in the art of recovering aroma from natural sources and put in an aqueous media. For example the coffee aroma may be obtained from coffee pressing.

**[0018]** It has surprisingly been found that the coffee beverage base of the invention shows improved aroma stability 25 compared to non-fermented products. It is believed that the coffee aroma compounds which are known to be highly reactive or unstable compounds are converted to less reactive or unreactive species or products stable under storage conditions due to the fermentation process.

**[0019]** The beverage base of the invention may be a liquid beverage concentrate e.g. a syrup, or a soluble beverage 30 concentrate, e.g. in powder or tablet form. The invention also relates to a ready-to-drink beverage comprising a beverage base as described in this patent application.

**[0020]** The beverage according to the invention has the benefits of being both refreshing and stimulating, and improved stability upon storage. It is refreshing due to its unique aroma modulation and stimulating due to caffeine content in the beverage. However, if desired a beverage which is de-caffinated is also an option. Conventional de-caffeinatting technologies may be employed for this purpose.

**[0021]** If desired the coffee beverage base could have foam properties to provide a foaming beverage upon preparation of the beverage. For example, the coffee beverage base may be gassed by injecting a gas such as air, nitrogen or carbon dioxide into it. Alternatively, the beverage may be gassed upon reconstitution. Conventional technology may be used for both purposes. The invention thus provides an attractive non-alcoholic alternative to beer. At the same 35 time the invention provides a beverage, which is both refreshing and stimulating. In a particular preferred embodiment of the invention the beverage base when prepared for consumption comprises a foam upper surface. Preferably the beverage base or the beverage made from it is gassed or carbonated. Foam is then created when the beverage is poured into a glass to provide a beverage, which also visually assimilate beer. It can be poured like a beer; it looks like a beer, but also has the stimulating effect of coffee.

**[0022]** In another aspect, this invention provides a process for providing a coffee beverage base, the process comprising 40

- providing a coffee component comprising coffee aroma,
- providing a micro organism with an ability to ferment,
- inoculating the coffee component with the micro-organism,

subjecting the incubated coffee component to fermentation at a temperature below 22°C to generate a fermented 45 coffee component that has a fruity and/or floral note due the fermentation of the coffee aroma, while controlling the fermentation conditions to substantially prevent the generation of alcohol and provide a substantially non-alcoholic coffee beverage base.

**[0023]** The micro-organism used for the fermentation may be either a strain of lactic acid producing bacteria or yeast 50 capable of producing fruity and/or floral notes. The coffee component is preferable selected from the group of coffee components discussed above. The temperature for fermentation must be below 22°C. It has been found that above 22°C the micro-organism, in particular yeast strains start to produce ethanol at a rate high enough to accumulate detectable levels during incubation period. This is particular undesirable for the products of the invention. Further details on the process of the invention are given below.

**[0024]** In a further embodiment, the invention relates to a fermented coffee aroma has a fruity and/or floral notes due to the fermentation of the coffee aroma, wherein an aroma being characterised by its ratio of 2-and 3-methylbutanol over 2-and 3-methylbutanal being more than 1. Preferably the fermented coffee aroma also has a ratio of thioacetates over thiols being more than 0.5. A coffee aroma of this type may be used for aromatising coffee beverages and other beverages such as e.g. tea.

Detailed Description of Preferred Embodiments of the Invention

**[0025]** Embodiments of the invention are now described, by way of example only.

**[0026]** The micro-organism used for the fermentation is either a strain of lactic acid producing bacteria or yeast capable of producing fruity and/or floral aroma notes.

**[0027]** Yeast has been found to be particular suitable for the present application. The preferred yeast is yeast which may develop a desirable fruity flavour and which are food grade. The yeast may preferable be selected from the group consisting of *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*, *S. bayanus*, *S. carlsbergensis*, *S. exigus*, *S. uvarum*, *Kluyveromyces marxianus*, *K. lactis*, *Brettanomyces* spp., *Aureobasidium pullulans*, *Candida stellata*, *C. krusei*, *Cryptococcus*, *Hanseniaspora uvarum*, *H. osmophilic*, *Issatchenka orientalis*, *Kloeckera* spp., *Kloeckera apiculata*, *Kloeckera javanica*, *Metschnikowia* spp., *Metschnikowia pulcherrima*, *Pichia* spp., *Pichia anomala*, *Saccharomyces ludwigii*, *Zygosaccharomyces bailii* or a combination thereof.

**[0028]** The strength and type of fruity and/or floral aroma notes the microorganism is capable to impart during the fermentation varies depending on the microorganism and fermentation conditions chosen. Thus, if a particular strong modulation of the coffee aroma is desired certain micro organism may be selected for the fermentation.

**[0029]** As mentioned above the coffee component is preferably selected from the group consisting of coffee extract, coffee aroma, coffee extract from which a portion of coffee aroma has been removed.

**[0030]** Coffee extract may be produced in conventional manner by subjecting roasted coffee beans to extraction. Any suitable extraction procedure may be used because the choice and design of the extraction procedure is a matter of preference and has no critical impact on a serving of the invention. Suitable extraction procedures are described in European patent applications 0 826 308 and 0 916 267, the discussion of which is incorporated by reference. Similarly, any suitable concentration procedure may be used because the choice and design of the concentration procedure is a matter of preference and has no impact on a serving of the invention. Of course, the coffee liquor may also be prepared by dissolving soluble coffee powder in water to the desired concentration.

**[0031]** In the production of soluble coffee, merely processing the roasted coffee beans to a coffee base concentrate as described above will result in the loss of substantially all coffee aroma. Therefore, it is preferred to specifically strip off and then collect the coffee aroma during processing. In this way, the coffee aroma is not lost. The coffee aroma for the purpose of this invention may be coffee aroma distillate originating from such a collection.

**[0032]** Processes for stripping off and collecting the coffee aroma are well known. Usually coffee aroma is stripped off at one or more stages, for example using an inert gas or steam during, or immediately after, grinding of the coffee beans and using steam to strip coffee aroma from the coffee extract during extraction.

**[0033]** Alternatively, the fresh coffee grounds may be slurried in water or coffee extract and the coffee aroma stripped from the slurry. A suitable procedure is described in International patent application PCT/EP99/00747, the disclosure of which is hereby incorporated as reference.

**[0034]** The coffee aroma may be captured using any suitable procedure. Ordinarily, the coffee aroma is captured by condensing it from the carrier gas in one or more condensers. Preferably, more than one condenser is used; each succeeding condenser being operated at a lower temperature than the previous condenser. If necessary or desired, one of the condensers may be a cryogenic aroma condenser. A suitable cryogenic aroma condenser is described in US patent 5,182,926; the disclosure of which is hereby incorporated as reference. The captured coffee aroma may, if desired, be concentrated using a suitable technique such as partial condensation or rectification. The captured coffee aroma may be combined with a suitable carrier substrate such as coffee oil or emulsion containing coffee oil or other fats. Aqueous coffee aroma components and organic coffee aroma components are then separated.

**[0035]** A beverage base according to the invention may comprise at least 0.2 % coffee solids by weight of the beverage base and at least 5 ppm fermented coffee aroma components by weight of the beverage base. It is preferred that the beverage base comprises between 0.01% and 2% coffee aroma, more preferably between 0.05 and 0.4% of coffee aroma by weight of coffee solids in the beverage base. This result in a beverage base which when reconstituted provides a beverage with a strong modulated coffee aroma with fruity and/or floral aroma notes. The coffee aroma of the beverage base is characterised by its unique aroma signature in which the concentration of aroma compounds has been significantly changed by the fermentation process as compared to the initial coffee aroma profile. This is shown below in Table 1 for 2 different yeast strains.

Table 1:

		Change in aroma concentration [%] by fermentation relative to untreated coffee aroma distillate =			
Yeast		C20		EC1118	
Sugar		Glucose	Fructose	Glucose	Fructose
dimethylsulfide		102%	102%	95%	84%
methylthioacetate		576%	563%	477%	416%
2-methylbutanal		<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%
3-methylbutanal		<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%
2,3-pentanedione		3%	3%	3%	3%
2-vinylfurane		48%	52%	52%	49%
N-methylpyrrole		85%	84%	75%	62%
pyridine		28%	18%	16%	17%
2,6-dimethylpyrazine		80%	92%	85%	103%
2-furfurylmethylsulfide		67%	66%	73%	73%
furfurylthiol		1%	< %	1%	1%
furfurylthioacetate		766%	696%	547%	550%
N-furfurylpyrrole		57%	51%	64%	63%
4-vinylguaiacol		47%	46%	57%	64%

25 [0036] In a preferred embodiment of the invention the coffee aroma component is coffee aroma distillate.

[0037] In a preferred embodiment of the invention the beverage base comprising an aroma being characterised by its ratio of 2-and 3-methylbutanol over 2-and 3-methylbutanal being more than 1, preferably being more than 50. Furthermore, the aroma is characterised by its ration of thioacetates over thiols being more than 0.5, preferably more than 5. This provides a unique aroma profile to the coffee beverage.

30 [0038] For further aromatisation of the beverage base it may be desirable to add artificial aroma. Examples of aromas, which have been found to complement the beverage base, are aromas such as fruity, berries, honey, beer, fermented fruits or "eau de vie" flavours.

[0039] It will also be appreciated that the beverage base of the present invention may also be provided by using only artificial fermented coffee aromas.

35 [0040] Other ingredients may be added to the beverage base in addition to the liquid form the final beverage. Such ingredients are e.g. sugars and sugar substitutes, organic acids to modulate the taste perception and buffering salts like phosphates and their analogues.

[0041] In a specific embodiment of the invention the beverage base has foam properties to allow foam to be created on the upper surface of the beverage when prepared. The beverage according to the invention may be both carbonated, gassed or and plain beverages. In a particular preferred embodiment of the invention the beverage comprises foam such as "beer-like" appearance, colour, volume, texture and stability. The foam may be obtained by carbonation, gassing or by adding foaming agents to the beverage, and can be favoured by addition of surfactant such as saponin.

40 [0042] Fermentation of the beverage base may result in an opaque beverage. If this is considered undesirable the clear beverage may be subjected to centrifugation.

[0043] The fermentation process of the current invention also results in a conversion of Strecker aldehydes to corresponding alcohols and thiols (furfurylthiol, methylthiol) into thioacetates. It has been found that during storage test at 37°C these compounds were stable for several weeks whereas the aldehydes and thiols rapidly disappeared. Although Strecker alcohols and thioacetates may have somewhat different odour characteristics than the aldehydes and thiols they are originating from, coffee identity was maintained.

45 [0044] As mentioned above the fermentation of the coffee component takes place below 22°C to avoid the generation of alcohol. Further it is preferred that the fermentation temperature is above 8°C. It has been found that below 8°C many micro organisms e.g. yeast has a metabolic activity, which is so low that synthesis of new compounds, would require long incubation times.

50 [0045] According to the invention the development of alcohol during the fermentation can be inhibited in particular by controlling the temperature and duration of fermentation, selecting suitable yeast or bacterial strains and this allows the production of a beverage base, which comprises substantially no alcohol. Surprisingly, the fermented beverage obtains a particular desirable aroma under these process conditions. For example, a pleasant fruity and/or floral aroma,

which in a pleasant way complement the coffee aroma.

**[0046]** Another advantage of the process of the invention is that it allows a fermented beverage to be generated in a relatively short fermentation process. Fermentation processes are generally known to be extensive due to long time the fermentation process takes e.g. in the range of 15 to 27 hours. The fermentation process of the present invention 5 may take less than 8 hours, preferably less than 6 hours but more than 4 hours in order to avoid ethanol formation while allowing development of fruity aroma and conversion of some coffee aroma compounds.

**[0047]** The fermentation process of the invention is preferable carried out without aeration. Aeration results in a stripping off of the aroma compounds. It has been found that contrary to what has been conventional that the fermentation 10 can be run satisfactory without aeration.

**[0048]** Advantageously the coffee component is supplemented with a carbohydrate effective to enhance the fermentation. For example sugar may advantageously be added to the coffee beverage base before fermentation. The sugar added e.g. to coffee extract has been found to have a substantial impact on the aroma production. In absence of sugar only a weak yeast aroma is generated. Preferably, at least 0.5 % of sugar is added based on the weight of the product 15 to be fermented. More preferably, from 0.5 to 20 % of sugar is added. In the present context sugar is e.g. glucose, sucrose or fructose or a combination thereof, or any sugar that can be metabolised by the selected yeast strain.

**[0049]** The flavour and aroma character of the beverage base according to the invention may differ depending on 20 which fermented coffee component is selected. Coffee extract with coffee aroma and coffee extract from which a portion of coffee aroma has been removed will have a more or less pronounced fruity and/or floral note due to the relatively amounts of coffee aroma in the extract. Further, the sweetness of the product will differ if the beverage base has been 25 supplemented with carbohydrate, e.g. sugar as discussed above. The amounts of carbohydrates added preferably dependent on the volume to be fermented. Thus, the sweetness of the final beverage will depend on the amount of the beverage base that has been subjected to fermentation. For example, if only the coffee aroma distillate has been fermented, it constitutes relative small amount of the final beverage, which has been sweetened, and the final product will be less sweet. On the other hand more sugar will be present in a final beverage prepared from a beverage base being a coffee extract.

**[0050]** In a preferred embodiment the coffee beverage base of the invention only the coffee aroma distillate is fermented. This beverage base will provide for a less sweet final beverage compared to the beverage bases based on 30 coffee extract. Further, this beverage base will be strong in fruit and/or flavour notes. More or less beverage base can be used in the final product to provide the desired strength of these components. Further, the sweetness of the product can be adjusted by simply adding more or less sweetener to the beverage base following the fermentation. This allow for a tailoring of the final coffee beverage product.

A specific examples further illustrates the invention.

### **Example 1 - Preparation of Coffee Beverage Base**

**[0051]** Roasted coffee extract was prepared in conventional manner. Incubation the roasted coffee extract was incubated for 6-8 h with live yeast cells led to formation of pleasant fruity aromas. Neither ethanol nor acetic acid was formed. The vessel was not aerated in order to avoid foaming, and stripping of coffee and fermentation aromas.

**[0052]** Several *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* and *S. bayanus* strains were tested and *S. cerevisiae* Castelli Ceppo 20 was selected for further trials. The fermentation was success-fully performed at 200-L scale at PTC/Orbe with E1 coffee extract supplemented with 5% sucrose. During fermentation temperature was maintained at 20°C.

**[0053]** After bio-transformation, centrifugation, carbonation and pasteurisation, a beverage having desired characteristics of coffee flavour, dense foam and unique aroma signature was obtained. Several aromatic compound brought 45 by yeast were identified and could be related to carbon metabolism and redox balance of the cells. Fermentation of coffee distillate led to generation of aroma, which was perceived after coffee reconstitution. By comparison fermentation of coffee base led to weaker aroma generation. Fermented coffee extract was successfully dried as powder after aroma stripping.

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### **Claims**

1. A coffee beverage base being substantially non-alcoholic and comprising a fermented coffee component comprising coffee aroma, which fermented coffee component, has a modulated coffee aroma with fruity and/or floral notes due to the fermentation of the coffee aroma.
2. A beverage base according to claim 1, wherein the coffee component are selected from the group consisting of coffee extract, coffee aroma, coffee extract from which a portion of coffee aroma has been removed.

3. A beverage base according to claim 2, wherein the coffee aroma is a distillate of coffee aroma from coffee grounds or from coffee extracts.
4. A beverage base according to any of the preceding claims, which comprises at least 0.2 % coffee solids by weight of the beverage base.
5. A beverage base according to any of the preceding claims, which comprises between 0.01 % and 2% coffee aroma by weight of coffee solids in the beverage base.
10. A beverage base according to any of the proceeding claims wherein the beverage base is fermented.
15. 7. A beverage base according to claim 7, wherein the beverage does not have an increased level of acetic acid resulting from fermentation.
20. 8. A beverage base according to any of the proceeding claims, the beverage base comprises an artificial fermented coffee aroma component.
25. 9. A beverage base according to any of the proceeding claims, the beverage base comprising an coffee aroma being **characterised by** its ratio of 2-and 3-methylbutanol over 2-and 3-methylbutanal being more than 1.
30. 10. A beverage base according to any of the proceeding claims, the beverage base comprising an coffee aroma being **characterised by** its ratio thioacetates over thiols being more than 0.5.
35. 11. A beverage base according to any of the proceeding claims having foam properties to allow foam to be created on the upper surface of the beverage when prepared.
40. 12. A beverage base according to any of the proceeding claims, wherein the beverage base is a liquid beverage concentrate or a soluble beverage concentrate.
45. 13. A ready-to-drink beverage comprising a beverage base according to any of the claims 1 to 12.
50. 14. A process for providing a coffee beverage base, the process comprising providing a coffee component comprising coffee aroma, providing a micro-organism with an ability to ferment, inoculating the coffee component with the micro-organism, subjecting the incubated coffee component to fermentation at a temperature below 22°C to generate a fermented coffee component that has a fruity and/or floral note due to the fermentation of the coffee aroma, while controlling the fermentation conditions to substantially prevent the generation of alcohol and provide a substantially non-alcoholic coffee beverage base.
55. 15. A process according to claim 14, comprising supplementing the coffee component with carbohydrate effective to enhance the fermentation process.
16. A process according to any of claims 14 or 15, wherein the fermentation temperature is between 5 and 22°C, preferably from 8 to 22°C.
17. A process according to any of claims 14 to 16, wherein the time of the fermentation is from 4 to 8 hours, preferably from 4 to 6 hours.
18. A fermented coffee aroma having fruity and/or floral notes due to the fermentation of the coffee aroma, wherein the aroma is **characterised by** its ratio of 2-and 3-methylbutanol over 2-and 3-methylbutanal being more than 1.
19. A fermented coffee aroma according to claim 18, wherein the coffee has a ratio of thioacetates over thiols being more than 0.5.



DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT																		
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.7)															
X	<p>DATABASE FSTA [Online] INTERNATIONAL FOOD INFORMATION SERVICE (IFIS), FRANFURT/MAIN, DE; 1996, ARGAIZ A ET AL: "Quantitative descriptive flavor profile of five brewed Mexican coffees." XP002271954 Database accession no. 97-1-04-h0200 * abstract * &amp; 1996 DEP. DE INGENIERIA QUIMICA Y ALIMENTOS, UNIV. DE LAS AMERICAS-PUEBLA, STA. CATARINA MARTIR, CHOLULA 72820, PUEBLA, MEXICO. 1996,</p> <p>-----</p>	1-8, 11-13	A23F5/10 A23F5/46 A23L1/234 A23F5/24															
X	<p>DATABASE WPI Section Ch, Week 199246 Derwent Publications Ltd., London, GB; Class D16, AN 1992-377558 XP002271957 &amp; JP 04 278072 A (KANEBO LTD) 2 October 1992 (1992-10-02) * abstract *</p> <p>-----</p>	1-8, 11-17																
X	<p>DATABASE FSTA [Online] INTERNATIONAL FOOD INFORMATION SERVICE (IFIS), FRANFURT/MAIN, DE; 2000, SOARES M ET AL: "Fruity flavour production by Ceratocystis fimbriata grown on coffee husk in solid-state fermentation." XP002271955 Database accession no. 2000-08-b0956 * abstract * &amp; PROCESS BIOCHEMISTRY 35 (8) 857-861 2000 CORRESPONDENCE (REPRINT) ADDRESS, P. CHRISTEN, LAB. DE MICROBIOL., IRD, UNIV. DE PROVENCE, 13288 MARSEILLE CEDEX 09, FRANCE. FAX +33-491-82-8570. E-MAIL CHRISTEN(A)ESIL.UNIV-MRS.FR, 2000,</p> <p>-----</p> <p>-/-</p>	1-8, 11-13	A23F A23L															
Y		13-17																
<p>The present search report has been drawn up for all claims</p> <p>4</p>																		
<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Place of search</td> <td>Date of compilation of the search</td> <td>Examiner</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Munich</td> <td>17 June 2004</td> <td>Rinaldi, F</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="3">CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="3">           X : particularly relevant if taken alone            Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category            A : technological background            O : non-written disclosure            P : intermediate document         </td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="3">           T : theory or principle underlying the invention            E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date            D : document cited in the application            L : document cited for other reasons            &amp; : member of the same patent family, corresponding document         </td> </tr> </table>				Place of search	Date of compilation of the search	Examiner	Munich	17 June 2004	Rinaldi, F	CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS			X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document			T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document		
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T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document																		



European Patent  
Office

## EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number  
EP 03 02 4638

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.)
D,A	EP 0 791 296 A (NESTLE SA) 27 August 1997 (1997-08-27) * column 3, line 5 - line 13 *	1-8, 11-13 14-17	
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4	Place of search	Date of compilation of the search	Examiner
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X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document			
T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document			



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CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS			
X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background C : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document			
T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document			

**CLAIMS INCURRING FEES**

The present European patent application comprised at the time of filing more than ten claims.

Only part of the claims have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for the first ten claims and for those claims for which claims fees have been paid, namely claim(s):

No claims fees have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for the first ten claims.

**LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION**

The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

see sheet B

All further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for all claims.

As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, the Search Division did not invite payment of any additional fee.

Only part of the further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the inventions in respect of which search fees have been paid, namely claims:

None of the further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the invention first mentioned in the claims, namely claims:



European Patent  
Office

**LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION**  
**SHEET B**

Application Number  
EP 03 02 4638

The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

**1. claims: I-8,11-17**

Fermented coffee component with floral and/or floral aroma;  
Fermentation process  
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**2. claims: 9-10,18-19**

Fermented coffee aroma with specific ratio of methylbutanol  
to methylbutanal  
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ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT  
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.

EP 03 02 4638

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report. The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on The European Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

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For more details about this annex : see Official Journal of the European Patent Office, No. 12/82.

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